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respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action in view of the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this document.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A prismatic battery module comprising:

a prismatic battery case having a plurality of prismatic cell cases connected to one another through a plurality of separation walls;

an electroconductive connector forming at least a central part of the separation wall arranged between the cell cases;

an electrode plate group arranged in each of the plurality of cell cases, the electrode plate group including positive electrode plates, negative electrode plates, and separators interposed therebetween, and further forming lead portions by projecting one side portion of the positive electrode plates and one side portion of the negative electrode plates in opposite directions, respectively;

and

an electrolyte accommodated in each of the cell cases,

wherein the positive electrode plates and the negative electrode plates are directly connected to the respective electroconductive connectors arranged on both sides of each cell case~~The prismatic battery module according to claim 1~~,

wherein the lead portions of the electrode plates include projections, the projections being joined together to form a raised portion, and ~~an~~ the electroconductive connector is integrally formed with a separation wall separating the cell cases from one another, the electroconductive connector having a connection surface that comes into contact with a side of the raised portion of the lead portions, and

wherein the raised portion of the lead portions is brought into contact with the electroconductive connector.

32. (Previously Presented) A prismatic battery module comprising:

a prismatic battery case having a plurality of prismatic cell cases connected to one another through separation walls;

an electroconductive connector forming at least part of the separation wall arranged between the cell cases;

an electrode plate group arranged in each of the plurality of cell cases, the

electrode plate group including positive electrode plates, negative electrode plates, and separators interposed therebetween, and further forming lead portions by projecting one side portion of the positive electrode plates and one side portion of the negative electrode plates in opposite directions, respectively; and

an electrolyte accommodated in each of the cell cases,

wherein the positive electrode plates and the negative electrode plates are connected to the respective electroconductive connectors arranged on both sides of each cell case;

wherein the lead portions of the electrode plates include projections, the projections being joined together to form a raised portion, and an electroconductive connector is integrally formed with a separation wall separating the cell cases from one another, the electroconductive connector having a connection surface that comes into contact with a side of the raised portion of the lead portions, wherein the raised portion of the lead portions is brought into contact with the electroconductive connector; and

wherein the pair of the connection surfaces are exposed in the cell cases on both sides of the electroconductive connector and are formed as a pair of tapered connection surfaces that come close to one another in a tapered fashion as they extend upward, while the raised portion of the lead portions includes an

end surface that is formed as a sloped surface to come in surface contact with each of the tapered connection surfaces.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)